



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-02-035

Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 19 June 02

Phone: (817) 886-1517

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to waive day use fees June 22-23

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will join other federal agencies in waiving day use fees at its recreation areas nationwide during the weekend of June 22 and 23.

This is in support of the President's Healthier US Initiative, which the White House announced on June 12. The President's initiative places emphasis on the important role the nation's parks and public lands play in making the lives of all Americans healthier, both mentally and physically.

In waiving day use fees this weekend, the Corps encourages all Americans to walk, hike, swim or just enjoy the nation's public lands and waters to improve their health and fitness.

"Americans seek out the beauty and variety of our nation's public lands to enhance their active lifestyles. We welcome all visitors to enjoy our parks and realize the health and fitness benefits that result from engaging in outdoor recreation activities," said Maj. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, director of Civil Works for the Corps.

The Corps' waiving of day use fees affects only Corps-operated areas with day use fees, such as Corps boat ramps and swimming beaches. Fees for camping and specialized services, such as group shelters, are not affected.

The Corps is one of the nation's largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests. The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year and estimates that 1 in 10 Americans visit a Corps project at least once a year to recreate. In Texas, the Corps operates 29 lakes.

-30-

Additional information about the Corps' recreation program and Fort Worth District is available at www.usace.army.mil/recreation and www.swf.usace.army.mil.